# NOTE XVII.

## ON THE SPECIFIC DISTINCTION OF THE GROUND-CUCKOOS OF BORNEO AND SUMATRA

(CARPOCOCCYX RADIATUS AND C. VIRIDIS)

BY

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Among the birds collected by the French naturalist Mr. P. Diard, who in the service of the government of Dutch India in 1826 first explored the district of Pontianak, west-coast of Borneo, the most interesting is no doubt a Ground-Cuckoo, peculiar by its large size and vivid colours. Diard got only one specimen, which reached Leyden not before 1828 and which was described and figured by Temminck in his »Planches coloriées" (91e Livr., 1832, Pl. 538) under the name »*Calobates radiceus*", afterwards changed in »*Calobates radiatus*" (Tabl. méth. or Index to the above work, p. 53, 1838). I mention these dates only to show that publication in those days did not go on so quickly as at present. This type-specimen of the Pl. col. is »La femelle adulte", and Temminck anxiously waited, but in vain, for the »male", said to be, according to Diard, more vivid in colours and with a tail »double plus longue" (!)

No other explorer of that period mentioned this singular bird with the exception of Dr. Salomon Müller, who, however, gives only the name (*Calobates radiatus*, in »Verhandl. over de Natuurl. Gesch., Land- en Volkenk., etc. (1839—44) p. 234, Note) with »Borneo and Sumatra." Strange enough he does not mention having got the bird

himself during his explorations in Western Sumatra (1833—36), although there is one specimen in the Leyden Museum labelled »Sumatra, voyage Salomon Müller." Professor Schlegel in his Catalogue of the Cuculi (Mus. Pays-Bas, 1864, p. 60), apparently misled by the duller colours, enumerates this specimen as the »fem. adulte" of the bright coloured Bornean-specimen, which latter he labels »mâle adulte." The specific identity of the large Ground-Cuckoos of Borneo and Sumatra was thus confirmed, although the measurements given by Schlegel show such unusual differences in size that one might feel inclined to base upon specific value. But Schlegel does not say that there are also conspicuous differences in coloration, and it was not before many years afterwards that Count Salvadori, who got three specimens collected by Odoardo Beccari on Mount Singalang, west-coast of Sumatra, pointed out the specific differences and, although hesitatingly, proposed a new name (*C. viridis*) for the Sumatran bird. And this is indeed an excellent species, as will be seen by the following characters taken from specimens in the Leyden Museum, which possesses an interesting material on these birds, still very rare in collections. In the British Museum, for example, *C. viridis* is wanting.

### *Carpococcyx radiatus* (Temm.).

*Calobates radiceus* Temm. Pl. col. 538 (91e Livraison, 1832).
*C. radiatus* Temm. Tabl. méth. (Index to Pl. col.), p. 53 (1838).
*Carpococcyx radiceus* Gray, List of Gen. of B. p. 56, 1840. — id. Gen. of B. II, p. 460, Pl. 117, fig. 5 (head), 1845.
*C. radiatus* Gray, Handl. II, p. 206.
*Neomorphus radiatus* Schleg. Mus. P. B. Cuculi (1864), p. 60 (N°. 1 »mâle adulte", but in fact an old female!).
*Carpococcyx radiatus* Shelley, Cat. B. Brit. M. XIX (1891), p. 414.

Larger; shoulders, secondaries and tail purplish-violet, with coppery-red reflections; head, nape, sides of head, chin and throat black, shining with violet on the vertex and nape.

Moreover in this species the back and wing-coverts are of a vivid green, the sides of the neck and the crop grey.

Besides the old female (Cat. N°. 1) figured in the Pl. col., from Pontianak (Coll. Diard 1826), the Leyden Museum possesses another old female (Cat. N°. 3) collected by Dr. Nieuwenhuis on the Long-Bloe, a branch of the upper Mahakkam, Central-Borneo (October 1896), and an old male (Cat. N°. 2), collected by Mr. Hose in the interior of Sarawak and presented by him to the Museum. The female N°. 3 shows faint dark green apical margins on the feathers of the rump, and therefore this part is not so distinctly barred with dark; but both sexes are precisely alike, in size as well as in colours.

»Irides grey, with a narrow brown outer circle; bill, feet and the naked space round the eye oilgreen": Dr. Nieuwenhuis. Diard describes the naked part round the eye as »red" and accordingly this colour is used also in the Pl. col. and our type to it. Mr. Hose got this fine Cuckoo in the interior of Sarawak (Mt. Dulit, Baram district and Kalulong) and gives only the following short notice: »a very rare bird, only found on the ground. Native name »Kruai Manang" (Ibis, 1893, p. 415)." Dr. Nieuwenhuis remarks only: »contents of stomach remains of beetles and other insects; native name »Manok bawai" (M. S.).

### *Carpococcyx viridis* Salvad.

et *C. radiatus* (Temm.)? in: Annali del Mus. Civ. di St. nat. di Genova, vol. XIV (1879), p. 187.

*Neomorphus radiatus* Schleg. (nec Temm.), Mus. P. B. Cuculi (1864), p. 60 (N°. 2 »femelle").

*C. viridis* Shelley, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. XIX, p. 415.

Smaller; shoulders, secondaries and tail dark green, without any purplish or coppery reflections; top of the head black (without violet shine); nape dark green; the chin black as also a longitudinal stripe margining the naked space round the eye from below.

Besides that in this species the throat and sides of the neck are greenish-grey, the back and wing-coverts are darker green than in *C. radiatus*; the dark crosslines on the abdomen are narrower and stand more closely, the sides of the breast and vent are washed pale rufescent, which colour is very distinct on the black barred lower tail-coverts.

The Leyden Museum possesses two specimens: one (Cat. N°. 1) collected by Dr. Salomon Müller in western Sumatra (Padang), the other (Cat. N°. 2) by Mr. van Hasselt (1880) in the same district; this last specimen is afterwards signed by Schlegel's handwriting »*Neomorphus radiatus sumatranus*". None of the specimens are sexed, but we may trust that in this species too both sexes are alike. The specimen N°. 2 shows remains of the first plumage: on the head there are a few rufous-brown feathers and among the not yet full grown primaries is an old one: brownish-black, narrowly margined with rufous-brown on the outer web.

Salvadori describes the young bird as blackish, with chestnut-brown crossbands; occiput blackish, quills greenish-black, margined with rufous. The naked space round the eye is: »di vari colori; verde, blue, e rosso-vinato chiaro." Judging from our skins the naked space round the eye, and the bill and feet are green.

Of the habits of this species nothing is known.

| | Al. | caud. | culm. | tars. | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 256 mm. | 306 mm. | 49 mm. | 97 mm. | *radiatus* | N°. 1 ♀. |
| (French) | 9,04 inch. | 11,2 inch. | — | 3,6 inch. | // | : Schlegel. |
| | 267 mm. | 280 mm. | 50 mm. | 85 mm. | // | N°. 3 ♀. |
| | 250 // | 292 // | 46 // | 92 // | // | // 2 ♂. |
| | 205 // | 247 // | 32 // | 73 // | *viridis* | // 1. |
| (French) | 7,10 inch. | 9,3 inch. | — | 2,9 inch. | // | // 1 Schl. |
| | 200 mm. | 250 mm. | 30 mm. | 75 mm. | // | // 2. |

Leyden Museum, 1 May 1898.